

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, YO, IT

SUBJECT: CONTINGENCY PLANNING ON YUGOSLAVIA

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING ITALIAN PRESENTATION ON "ZONE B"DISPUTE (SEPTEL), DEBATE IN APRIL 8 SENIOR POLITICAL COMMITTEE TURNED TO REQUIREMENT FOR AN ALLIANCE ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT YUGOSLAV DEVELOPMENTS AND POSSIBLE PLANS FOR FUTURE CONTINGENCIES. DUTCH PERMREP WILL SUGGEST AT APRIL 9 PREMREPS LUNCH THAT NATO REVIEW YUGOSLAV SITUATION AND ITS POTENTIALIMPACT. ALLIED SPC REPS RECOGNIZED NEED FOR CAUTIOUS MOVEMENT IN THIS AREA GIVEN POSSIBLE RISK OF PUBLIC DISCLOSURE. MISSION PROPOSES PRIVATE MEETING OF SYG LUNS AND PERMREPS ONLY TO DECIDE ON HOW NATO SHOULD ADDRESS PRESENT AND PROSPECTIVE YUGOSLAV DEVELOPMENTS AND POSSIBLE ALLIANCE CONTINGENCIES THEREFOR. END SUMMARY.

1. IN APRIL 8 SPC MEETING, ITALIAN REP (BETTINI) TRACED POSTWAR HISTORY OF ITALO-YUGOSLAV DISPUTE OVER TRIESTE GIVING THE ITALIAN INTERPRETATIONS OF THE TERRITORIAL SETTLEMENTS UNDER THE LONDON MEMORANDUM OF 1954.

2. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON MEANING OF RECENT YUGOSLAV ACTIONS WHICH ITALY CONSIDERS TO HAVE REKINDLED THE DISPUTE, BETTINE, SPEAKING ON A PERSONAL BASIS, RELATED RECENT DEVELOP-
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MENTS TO YUGOSLAV NATIONALITY PROBLEMS AND TO THE ISSUE OF TITO'S EVENTUAL SUCCESSOR.

3. NETHERLANDS SPC REP SUGGESTED THAT ALLIES MIGHT WANT TO

COLLECTIVELY ASSESS CURRENT YUGOSLAV DEVELOPMENTS AND THE PROSPECTIVE IMPACT ON THE ALLIANCE OF TITO'S PASSING FROM THE SCENE. DUTCH REP SAID HIS AMBASSADOR WOULD RAISE THE YUGOSLAV QUESTION AT THE APRIL 9 PERMREPS LUNCH AND SUGGEST THAT THE SPC BE TASKED WITH DEVELOPMENT OF A CONTINGENCY STUDY. SEVERAL ALLIES (GREECE, NORWAY, UK, NETHERLANDS) SUGGESTED THAT YUGOSLAV STUDY WOULD BE USEFUL BUT CAUTIONED THAT POSSIBLE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF NATO EFFORT IN THIS AREA COULD BE DAMAGING TO THE ALLIANCE. PENDING VIEWS FROM THEIR CAPITALS, OTHER ALLIES (FRG, ITALY, FRANCE) EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT DECIDING ON STUDY AT THIS TIME. FRENCH REP NOTED THAT MATTER WOULD BE DISCUSSED IN APRIL 9 PERMREPS' LUNC AND SUGGESTED THAT FURTHER DECISIONS BE TAKEN AFTER THAT DISCUSSION.

4. BRITISH REP SUGGESTED THAT REVIEW PROCESS MIGHT BEGIN WITH PUTTING NATIONAL VIEWS ON CURRENT YUGOSLAV DEVELOPMENTS AND THEIR MEANING FOR THE FUTURE INTO THE SPC FOR COLLECTIVE ASSESSMENT BEFORE DECIDING ON WHETHER FURTHER STUDY OR CONTINGENCY PLANS WERE NEEDED.

5. COMMENT: ITALO-YUGOSLAV "ZONE B" DISPUTE HAS BROUGHT YUGOSLAVIA AND POSSIBILITY OF PROBLEMS FOR ALLIANCE AFTER TITO'S PASSING ONCE MORE TO THE FORE. WHILE WE AGREE THAT A SHARED ASSESSMENT OF PRESENT YUGOSLAV DEVELOPMENTS AND POSSIBLE ALLIANCE CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE WOULD BE USEFUL, WE SHARE THE WIDELY-FELDT CONCERN ABOUT THE RISK TO NATO FROM POSSIBLE PUBLIC LEAKAGE OF AN ALLIED STUDY. SYG LUNS FEARS BOTH THAT ANY SUCH PLANNING MIGHT PROMPT DIVISIVE CONCERN AMONG NATO'S NORTHERN FLANK MEMBERS AND THAT A YUGOSLAV STUDY CARRIES CONSIDERABLE RISK SHOULD THERE BE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE. LUNS HAS, THEREFORE, PROPOSED THAT A RESTRICTIVE GROUP OF PERMREPS (US, UK, FRG) MEET WITH NAC DEAN (BELGIAN PERMREP) AND SACEUR TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF AN INFORMAL WORKING GROUP TO LOOK INTO THE YUGOSLAV SITUATION AND POSSIBLE NATO CONTINGENCY PLANS. GIVEN THE WIDE INTEREST IN THIS MATTER AS DEMONSTRATED BY THE ABOVE SPC DISCUSSION, MISSION FEELS IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO EXCLUDE OTHER ALLIES FROM CONSIDERING THIS MATTER. WE WOULD
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PROPOSE, THEREFORE, THAT LUNS HOLD A PRIVATE MEETING WITH PERMREPS ONLY, AND UNDER FULL CAVEATS ABOUT PUBLIC LEAKAGE, TO DISCUSS WHETHER AND HOW NATO SHOULD PROCEED TO ADDRESS BOTH THE YUGOSLAV SITUATION AND ITS POSSIBLE FUTURE IMPACT ON THE ALLIANCE. REQUEST DEPARTMENT APPROVAL OF THE ABOVE APPROACH IN TIME FOR USE IN PERMREPS LUNCH APRIL 9. END COMMENT. RUMSFELD

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